

By Chris Herlinger

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Police cordoned off the monastery on Sept. 27, and undercover officers forcibly entered the monastery and forced 150 monks out, the advocacy group said.

The Vietnamese embassy in Washington said the government respects freedom of religion. "Like in other countries, however," it said in a statement, "violations of law, which do harm to the national security, order and stability, shall be strictly dealt with by the laws."

The **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom** has asked the State Department to list Vietnam on its countries of "particular concern" because of violations of human rights and freedom of religion. Vietnam was dropped from the list in 2006.